

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A silver-based powder characterized by being surface-treated with an oxidation inhibitor by ~~means of~~ a mechanochemical reaction.

2. (Original) The powder of claim 1, where the oxidation inhibitor is a phenol-based compound, hindered phenol-based compound, or triazole-based compound.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of preparation of a ~~[[the]]~~ silver-based powder ~~of claim 1, where the said method comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) utilizing an organic solution of ~~[[the]]~~ an oxidation inhibitor as a lubricating agent,
- b) applying mechanical energy to the silver-based powder, and
- c) subjecting the silver-based powder to surface treatment with ~~[[said]]~~ the oxidation inhibitor.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, where the oxidation inhibitor is a phenol-based compound, hindered phenol-based compound, or triazole-based compound.

5. (Original) A composition comprising a curable silicone composition and a silver-based powder surface-treated with an oxidation inhibitor.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~curable silicone~~ composition of claim 5, where the silver-based powder is surface-treated with the oxidation inhibitor by ~~means of~~ a mechanochemical reaction.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~curable silicone~~ composition of claim 5, where the oxidation inhibitor is a phenol-based compound, hindered phenol-based compound, or triazole-based compound.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~curable silicone~~ composition of claim 5, where the curable silicone composition is curable with a hydrosilylation reaction.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~curable silicone~~ composition of claim 8, comprising:

- (A) 100 parts by weight of an organopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule;

(B) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, where component (B) is present in an amount sufficient to provide silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms in an amount of 0.5 to 5 per one alkenyl group of component (A);

(C) 50 to 2,000 parts by weight of the silver-based powder, surface-treated with [[an]] the oxidation inhibitor, for each 100 parts by weight of component (A); and

(D) a platinum catalyst in an amount required for promoting the hydrosilylation reaction.

10. (Currently Amended) Use of the ~~curable silicone~~ composition of claim 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 as an electroconductive adhesive ~~agents~~ agent, heat-radiating adhesive ~~agents~~ agent, electroconductive die-bonding ~~agents~~ agent, heat-radiating die-bonding ~~agents~~ agent, electroconductive ~~pastes~~ paste, heat-radiating ~~pastes~~ paste, electromagnetic shielding ~~agents~~ agent, or raw ~~materials~~ material for manufacturing an electroconductive ~~sheets~~ sheet, heat-radiating ~~sheets~~ sheet, or electromagnetic-wave absorption ~~sheets~~ sheet.

Please add the following new claims.

11. (New) The powder of claim 1, where the mechanochemical reaction includes applying mechanical energy to the powder to activate a surface of the powder and reacting the oxidation inhibitor with the activated surface of the powder.

12. (New) The powder of claim 11, where the applying of the mechanical energy to the powder includes crushing, shocking, or rolling the powder.

13. (New) The powder of claim 1, where the oxidation initiator is present in an amount of 0.01 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the powder.

14. (New) The method of claim 3, where applying mechanical energy to the silver-based powder includes crushing, shocking, or rolling the powder.

15. (New) The method of claim 3, where the organic solution comprises the oxidation inhibitor and an organic solvent selected from the group of alcoholic solvents, aliphatic solvents, aromatic solvents, ester-type solvents, and combinations thereof.

16. (New) The method of claim 3, where the oxidation initiator is present in an amount of 0.01 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the silver-based powder.

17. (New) The composition of claim 5, where the oxidation initiator is present in an amount of 0.01 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the silver-based powder.

18. (New) The composition of claim 9, where the silver-based powder, surface-treated with the oxidation inhibitor, is present in an amount of 300 to 600 parts by weight for each 100 parts by weight of component (A).